

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A fermentation process suitable for the preparation of a desired L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-threonine, L-isoleucine, L-valine, and L-lysine, wherein the following steps are carried out:

- a) fermentation of an *E.coli* strain in a fermentation broth for producing the desired L-amino acid, wherein the endogenous gene encoding phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP) carboxykinase (*pckA* gene) of *E.coli* is attenuated inactivated by one or more methods of mutagenesis selected from the group consisting of deletion, insertional mutagenesis due to homologous recombination, and transition or traversal mutagenesis with incorporation of a non-sense mutation in the *pckA* gene, and
- b) concentration of the fermentation broth to eliminate water and increase the concentration of said L-amino acids in the broth and *E.coli*, and
- c) isolation of the L-amino acid constituents of the fermentation broth and the biomass acids.

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein one or more *E.coli* genes selected from the group consisting of:

6.1 (a) the *thrABC* operon coding for aspartate kinase, homoserine dehydrogenase, homoserine kinase and threonine synthase,

- (a) the *pyc* gene coding for pyruvate carboxylase,
- (b) the *pps* gene coding for phosphoenolpyruvate synthase,
- (c) the *ppc* gene coding for phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase,
- (d) the *pntA* and *pntB* genes coding for transhydrogenase,
- (e) the *rhtB* gene for homoserine resistance, and
- (f) the *rhtC* gene for threonine resistance, and

(g) the *gdhA* gene coding for glutamate dehydrogenase

are overexpressed by increasing the copy number or placed under a strong promoter during fermentation for the preparation of said L-amino acids.

7. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein one or more *E.coli* genes selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the *tdh* gene coding for threonine dehydrogenase,
- (b) the *mdh* gene coding for malate dehydrogenase,
- (c) the gene product of the open reading frame (orf) *yjfA*, and
- (d) the gene product of the open reading frame (orf) *ytfP*,

are attenuated or the expression is reduced inactivated by one or more methods of mutagenesis selected from the group consisting of deletion, insertional mutagenesis due to homologous recombination, and transition or traversal mutagenesis with incorporation of a non-sense mutation in the *pckA* gene during fermentation for the preparation of said L-amino acids.

8-27. (Canceled)

28. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein constituents of the fermentation broth and the biomass in its entirety or portions thereof being isolated as a solid product together with said L-amino acids.

29. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein L-threonine is produced by fermenting the *E. coli* strain MG442Δ*pckA* deposited under DSM13761.

30. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein L-threonine is produced by fermenting *E. coli* strain B-3996kurΔ*tdh*Δ*pckA*/pVIC40 deposited under DSM14150.